

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/528,001

Applicant(s)

KADAMBI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Thai D. Hoang

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Pre-Appeal filed on 04/24/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas H. Goldhush on July 6, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: (Currently amended) A network switch stack configuration, said configuration comprising:

a first network switch comprising a plurality of data ports, a first stacking port, a first internet port interface controller, and a first CPU interface;

a second network switch having a plurality of data ports, a second stacking port, a second internet port interface controller, and a second CPU interface; and

a common CPU connected to said first CPU interface and said second CPU interface;

wherein the first stacking port and the second stacking port are communicatively connected through said first and second internet port interface controllers, such that incoming packets on any of the plurality of data ports on the first and second switches are effectively switched to any of the plurality of data ports on either of the first and second network switches; and

wherein the first switch adds a module header [[having module identifier fields, providing a source module ID of the first switch,]] having one of a TGID field which identifies a trunk group identifier of a first port, or a module IP bitmap which sends a packet to a mirror-to port located on a remote module, to the incoming packets and the second stacking port reads the module header to determine egress ports for the packets.

Claim 7: (Currently amended) A method for routing packets in a network switch stack configuration, the method comprising

communicatively connecting a first stacking port and a second stacking port, wherein a first network switch includes switch includes said first stacking port and a second network switch includes said second stacking port;

adding a module header [[having module identifier fields, providing a source module ID of the first switch,]] having one of a TGID field which identifies a trunk group identifier of a first port, or a module IP bitmap which sends a packet to a mirror-to port located on a remote module, to incoming packets on any of a plurality of data ports by said first switch;

reading the module header by the second stacking port to determine egress ports for said incoming packets; and

switching said incoming packets to said egress ports via at least one internet port interface controller, said egress ports including any of the plurality of data ports on either of the first and second network switches.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Muller et al, US patent No. 5,909,686, discloses a method and apparatus for providing hardware-assisted central processing unit access to a forwarding database. Muller does not teach or fairly suggest the following features, which are recited in each independent claim of the present application:

- (a) A network switch stack configuration, said configuration comprising:
a first network switch comprising a plurality of data ports, a first stacking port, a first internet port interface controller, and a first CPU interface;
a second network switch having a plurality of data ports, a second stacking port, a second internet port interface controller, and a second CPU interface; and
a common CPU;
wherein the first switch adds a module headers having one of a TGID field which identifies a trunk group identifier of a first port, or a module IP bitmap which sends a packet to a mirror-to port located on a remote module, to the incoming packets and the second stacking port reads the module header to determine egress ports for the packets as recited in claim 1.

- (b) A method for routing packets in a network switch stack configuration, the method comprising:

communicatively connecting a first stacking port and a second stacking port, wherein a first network switch includes switch includes said first stacking port and a second network switch includes said second stacking port;

adding a module header having one of a TGID field which identifies a trunk group identifier of a first port, or a module IP bitmap which sends a packet to a mirror-to port located on a remote module, to incoming packets on any of a plurality of data ports by said first switch as recited in claim 7.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai D. Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3184. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on (571) 272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TH

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